

# Howard County Commission for Women

## 2015 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

### THEME:

The theme for the 2015 Women's History Month essay contest is: **"Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives."** Essays should honor and recount tales of our ancestors' talents, sacrifices, and commitments and reflect how their contributions inspire today's generations.

### RULES:

- Essays may describe either a contemporary or historical American woman.
- All Howard County Maryland students in grades 6 through 12 (public, private and home-schooled) are eligible.
- Only an individual student may submit an essay; no groups.
- Essays must be written in paragraph format, no longer than 500 words in length, double-spaced, in 12 point font.
- Submissions must include the following information:
  - name and grade
  - home phone number and address
  - e-mail address
  - school name and address

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Essays may be submitted via e-mail to [women@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:women@howardcountymd.gov) (use subject line: **WHOF Essay Contest**). Essays submitted via e-mail must be in MSWord and sent as an attachment.
- Essays may be mailed to: WHOF Essay Contest, Howard County Commission for Women, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300, Columbia, MD 21046
- All entries are the property of the Howard County Commission for Women.
- The decision of the judges and the Commission for Women is final.
- Essays received via e-mail will be confirmed by e-mail within one business day. **If a receipt is not received, please call 410-313-6400.**

### CRITERIA FOR JUDGING ESSAYS:

- Theme must be clearly addressed.
- Responses must include information based on research as well as personal experience and/or opinion.
- Content must include relevant, authentic information and ideas must be fully developed.
- Content must demonstrate critical and creative thinking.
- Proper grammar, spelling and punctuation must be consistent with accepted usage.

### DEADLINE

Essays must be received by 5:00 pm on January 23, 2015.

### AWARDS

- Visa Gift Cards (\$200) will be awarded to the first place winners in each grade category (grades 6-8 and 9-12).
- Winners will be invited to read their essays at the Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony to be held on Thursday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building in Ellicott City.